The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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Non-Partisan Labor Board Member Ignores Oath; Would Outlaw Strike

New York, Dec. 24.—Does congress make federal laws when enjamin Hooper of the railroad labor board and his secret backers ve the word?

According to a speech before railroad officials in this city by Ir. Hooper, members of congress are order takers. In discussing railroad rikes, he said railroad employes have no right to quit in concert, nd

"If this is not the law, it ought to be, and it will be."

Five other members of the railroad labor board were present. hey came from Chicago to attend this meeting.

It was an unusual spectacle. The vice chairman of a board, harged with adjusting grievances between employer and employed, nd who is under oath to fulfill the intent of the law, standing before veral hundred railroad executives and declaring that there ought to a "can't-strike" law—and there will be such legislation.

Probably no one holding an important judicial position in is country ever exhibited such partisanship as did this representative the public group on the railroad labor board.

Mr. Hooper revamped the old, threadbare arguments for "can't- rike" legislation that have been discredited in every country where e scheme has been applied. He talked of an "impartial tribunal"— pposedly as "impartial" as some of the public group on the present bor board, who were appointed on the theory of fairness, and who w demand handcuff legislation for labor.

The partisanship of Mr. Hooper was most apparent when he ctured labor without stint and smoothed over the managers' defiance the board's orders as follows:

> "On account of the fact that the holiday season of peace and good will is so near I will not mention anybody that has violated the board's decisions. It is not in good taste to hang lemons on the Christmas tree."

Mr. Hooper was equally solicitous for the managers of the ennsylvania railroad, who have repeatedly flouted the board's orders d who have secured an injunction to stop the board from calling e public's attention to this defiance. Instead of thundering against e offending railroad, and demanding that it obey the law, Mr. Hooper akes this sickly comment:

> "Personally, I am glad that this honest difference of opinion as to the meaning of the law is to be judicially settled. The labor board is not sensitive about law suits brought against it."

The speech was so offensively partisan that the question arises: s it part of a plan to discredit the board and thereby make the ht of the railroads against the labor sections of the railroad act sier?

UBSIDY NOT NEEDED IF LAW IS ENFORCED

San Francisco, Dec. 24.—The re- val of ship-subsidy agitation is scussed in the current issue of the amen's Journal, which suggests at if vessel owners are fearful of e cheap-wage competition of for- gn ship owners, let them insist at the La Follette seamen's law enforced.

This law permits crews of foreign ips to leave their ships on arrival American ports. Formerly the vernment was a slave catcher for e foreign ships. Under the sea- en's law the only way they can ld employes is to pay American ges, as the La Follette act de- ives foreign ships of the only ad- ntage they formerly had.

"Those who are at all inclined to d an ear to this alien-inspired pro- t against the seaman's act should t take anything for granted with- due investigation," says the Sea- n's Journal.

All that is required is enforce- nt of existing law and there will no need for subsidies to rebuild e American merchant marine. Yet, at is probably another prime rea- n which prompts the howl of pro- t from certain 'Americans'. The uld-be subsidy grabbers know at the La Follette seamen's act, enforced, will put an end to their nd dreams of substantial gifts, in e shape of ship subsidies, from national trasury.

'Figures clearly illustrating the dent' public enthusiasm for an nerican-owned merchant marine d the shippers' desire for non-co- eration in using the American- ned bottoms are contained in ta- es compiled from data furnished the statistical division of the ited States shipping board for ptember, 1921, showing that for- n ships carried 67 per cent of r export and 66 per cent of our port trade."

ATFIELD MURDERERS ACQUITTED BY JURY

Welch, W. Va., Dec. 24.—The ex- ted has happened—C. E. Lively, ldwin-Feltz detective and self- nfesed spy, been acquitted of the arge of murdering Sid Hatfield.

Hatfield and Ed Chambers were lled on the steps of the court use by Lively and two other ugs last July. The murdered men re unarmed. They came to elch to answer an indictment hich involved them in a dispute Mohawk over a year ago. Friends Hatfield insisted that the indict- nt was a trick to get him out Matewan, and behind the trick re Baldwin-Feltz men who would venge the killing of one of the torious Feltz' brothers and other tectives in Matewan on May 19, 20. At that time the thugs were tempting to oust miners from mpany houses without due pro- ss of law. Mayor Testerman and tfield, who was chief of police, otested. In the shooting that fol- wed, the mayor was killed, as re seven detectives.

VILL WE HAVE PEASANTS?

Boston, Dec. 24.—In a speech in s city Secretary of Agriculture allace said:

'We are approaching that period hich comes in the life of every tion when we must determine hether we shall strive for a well- unded, self-sustaining national life which there shall be a fair bal- ce between industry and agricul- re, or whether, as have so many tions in the past, we shall sac- ice our agriculture for the build- g of cities and expect our food be produced not by independent rmers but by men and women of peasant type."

LEHLBACH BILL PASSED.

Washington, Dec. 24.—By a vote 244 to 65 the house passed the hlbach reclassification bill, which supported by organized federal ployes.

The bill reclassifies federal civil- positions, except the postal rvice. It fixes rules for advance- nt and makes possible the trans- of employes between depart- nts. The principle of equal pay equal work is established.

STEEL MEN DEFY FEDERAL BOARD

Washington, Dec. 24.—While the railroads are defying the railroad labor board, a score of eastern steel corporations notify the federal trade commission that "they will not be investigated," and refuse to answer questions that the commission asks, as provided by law.

For two years this matter has been in the courts, and now the corporations ask for an injunction to restrain the commission from annoying them.

This is the identical position taken by the Pennsylvania railroad, which secured an injunction from Federal Judge Landis restraining the railroad labor board from announcing to the world that the railroad had disobeyed its orders.

Dollar Autocracy Rules in Colorado

Denver, Dec. 24.—"Colorado as a sovereign state no longer exists," says Labor's Voice, issued by the Typographical union.

"Colorado is but a province of the invisible money power oligarchy that is making of each state a dependency to be exploited at the will of industrial barons.

"The most recent example illustrative of the complete masterfulness of the corporation power in Colorado is that wherein the powers of this state have been handed over to the Colorado Fuel and Iron company to assist that concern to browbeat working men who slave in its mines into accepting a wage cut.

"This company, practically the private property of John D. Rockefeller, exploits the coal mines of Huerfano county. At the company's will, and without the slightest indication of violence of any sort whatever, 'martial law,' the contrivance that capitalists use when they find themselves hampered by ordinary civil law processes, was declared, and an ex-saloonman of Denver delegated the power of the state of Colorado to be used in compelling working men to accept the will of their industrial master.

"The old order has changed for Colorado. The old forms are still used, but the government is in very fact an industrial autocracy. Colorado's real rulers are not the individuals we see in public office, but the industrial masters who stand behind the scenes and pull the strings."

MORE JAPS IN HAWAII.

Honolulu, Dec. 24.—New Japanese families have been set up in the territory of Hawaii at the rate of 1,400 a year in the 10-year period from 1910.

Government figures show that in the decade between July 1, 1910, and June 30, 1921, Japanese wives numbering 14,686 came from Japan to Hawaii to join their husbands.

On the very moderate basis of five children to a family the Japanese immigrants represent the potental nucleus of an additional increase to the Japanese population as of 1910 of about 95,000.

"Of the number of Japanese women entering Hawaii in that period 10,617 were "picture brides" and 4,069 were wives, married in Japan, who came to join their husbands already here.

Under the "picture bride" system, a Jap sends his photograph to a woman in Japan. The woman is then married to a man in that country who acts as substitute for the photograph sender.

URGE NON-PARTISANSHIP.

Temple, Texas, Dec. 24.—Conforming with instructions of the last convention, officers of the Texas state federation of labor call on affiliates to establish a non-partisan political conference in every locality where two or more trade unions exist. The railroad brotherhoods and farmers' organizations are invited to participate.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 24. — The state federation of labor will hold its annual convention in this city, beginning April 24 next.

LIVING WAGE THEORY IS NOT CONSIDERED

Washington, Dec. 24.—The reversal of "a great process of moral education" in the present economic reaction is seen by the social action department of the national Catholic welfare council, which says the living wage principle "is not only neglected in theory, but widely violated in practice."

"The present movement for wage reductions," it is stated, "disregards almost entirely the question of justice. Some times the demand for lower wages is expressed in the brutal language of economic materialism: 'Labor must be liquidated.' Some times it is stated in terms that have a false appearance of fairness: 'Wages must go down with prices.' Scarcely ever is the question asked: 'Will the reduced wages afford the workers and their families a decent livelihood?'

"Since the war we have seen a reversal of this great process of moral education. In the last few months the reaction has attained such momentum that the living wage principle is not only neglected in theory, but widely violated in practice. The remuneration of immense numbers of employes has been reduced to $2 a day, and even less. Three dollars a day is not now a living wage for the father of a family. In 1914 no competent authority placed the cost of maintaining a man and wife and three small children at less than $2.50 per day. The United States bureau of labor statistics informs us that the cost of living was in September, 1921, 76½ per cent higher than in 1914. The national industrial conference board, a bureau conducted by the employers' associations, estimates the increase in living costs during the same period as 63 1-10 per cent."

Remove War Causes, Church Men Plead

New York, Dec. 24.—A peace system must be established if war is to be outlawed, declares the federal council of the churches of Christ in America in a public statement. The council represents the Protestant churches of America.

The church men say that the arms conference has made a good beginning, "but as a nation we must press on to matters of still greater importance and still more serious difficulty.

"Provision has not yet been made for the general reduction of land armaments. That which now threatens the world is chemical and air plane and submarine warfare.

"War itself must be outlawed. We believe that there in one way, and only one way, to outlaw war. We must first establish a peace system. Methods must be found by which to assure full security, equal justice and fair economic opportunity for all nations and all peoples alike.

"Mere disarmament by itself alone will not stop war. Only the firm establishment of the institutions of justice and of liberty under the law, maintained by effective sanctions at the hands of law-abiding and peace-loving nations, can possibly banish war from this war-cursed world.

"We believe in a warless world and dedicate ourselves to its achievement."

EARLY LABOR HARMFUL.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The evil effects on immature children forced to labor either in agriculture or industry is one of the features of the ninth annual report of Miss Julia C. Lathrop, chief of the United States children's bureau. This is the last report of Miss Lathrop. It was written on the eve of her resignation, last August.

In a study of children employed in the sugar beet industry, it is stated that "an average age of only 11 years was found among the child workers in the sugar beet fields studied."

"Plainly," says Miss Lathrop, "the task of social study is progressive and can not be completed. Thus far the bureau has hardly made a beginning in performing the vast task assigned to it."

Since Miss Lathrop's report was written congress has enacted the Sheppard-Towner law for the promotion of the welfare and hygiene of maternity and infancy. This will call for an additional appropriation to the children's bureau for the current year of $1,480,000, $50,000 of which will be available for federal administration, the balance to be apportioned to the states when they accept the provisions of the act and appropriate an amount equal to their federal allotment.

MEAT BARONS BOOST PRICES.

New York, Dec. 24.—The strike of butcher workmen in this vicinity is an excuse for meat barons to boost prices, although they assure the public that the strike and increased prices is merely a "coincident."

The union says the "big five" packers are maintaining meat prices on a "profiteering level by preventing independent concerns from increasing their business during the strike.

"There are some 25 meat packing concerns in New York and Jersey City against whom no strike has been called," the unionists say. "The 'big five,' however, control the amount of business done by the independents by controlling over 99 per cent of the available slaughtering space in New York and Jersey City.

"Slaughtering can be done only on the ground set aside by city authorities for the purpose. There are only three tracts where this can be done. The 'big five' control two of these tracts completely, and 99 per cent of the other."

The union has demanded that the government investigate their charges.

WORKERS WANT WORK.

Chicago, Dec. 24.—"What the workers want is work, not compensation," said William J. Mack, in a speech in this city. Mr. Mack was chairman of the ladies' garment industry in Cleveland last year.

"Paralyzing fear of unemployment causes a loss of efficiency and productivity," said Mr. Mack. "The removal of this fear is quite as much a gain for the manufacturer as for the worker."

CARPENTERS GAIN.

Yonkers, N. Y., Dec. 24.—Organized carpenters in this county have signed an agreement with contractors which expires July 1, 1922.

EMPLOYERS ARE AGAIN BLAMED FOR RESTRICTED PRODUCTION

New York, Dec. 24.—Once again have anti-unionists and their editorial and political cuckoos ignored the challenge of mechanical engineers that employers are inefficient and responsible for restricted production.

The first challenge was when a committee representing the American society of mechanical engineers, after a survey of industry, published figures to prove their statement.

The second challenge is by Fred J. Miller, past president of the society, who stated in a speech before 2,000 engineers, manufacturers and educators that labor's inefficiency is insignificant compared with the employers.

"Too many there are," he said, "who would place inefficiency entirely upon the employe. Production has been and is restricted by workers, organized and unorganized, and most of such restriction is wrong, economically, if not ethically.

"In most industries, however, I think it can easily be shown that restriction of production by workers is insignificant compared with the restrictions caused by financial juggling; by avoidable irregular employment of labor and of plant; by unnecessary large inventories; by inadequate control of the movement of material through the works; by inadequate or entire absence of provision for teaching or training, and by absence of effective means of recording attainments of workers."

Mr. Miller also stated that "the transcendent importance of the human element in our industries" must be fully recognized.

Anderson's Check Off Injunction Is Set Aside

Chicago, Dec. 24.—Federal Judge Anderson's sweeping injunction against the miners' check-off system has been set aside by the United States court of appeals. The decision was signed by Judges Baker, Alschuler and Page.

In ordering Judge Anderson to recast his injunction, the court instructs him to have in mind the complaint of the Borderland coal corporation and not wander all over the United States interfering with contracts that have been voluntarily entered into between coal owners and their employes. These coal companies, the court of appeals says, should not be included in Judge Anderson's injunction as they did not ask for an injunction and were not even named in the bill. The court further instructs Judge Anderson to issue a temporary injunction, as requested by the Borderland coal corporation, and then have the case argued on its merits.

When this corporation asked for an injunction, Judge Anderson brought high glee to anti-unionists by going outside his domain, as the court of appeals shows, and attacking the check-off system everywhere. He took it upon himself to announce that the so-called West Virginia "conspiracy" was possible because union miners throughout the country were aiding West Virginia strikers. To end this "conspiracy" he enjoined the check-off system of collecting dues.

Now the court of appeals tells Judge Anderson to "cut out" his nation-saving stunt, and pass on matters before him in a manner that befits a judge.

BAKERS RESIST CUT; ONE STRIKER KILLED

Chicago, Dec. 24.—Desite assaults and vicious propaganda, 15 wholesale bakery firms have failed to destroy Bakers' union No. 2, or drive these stirling trade unions back to their labor.

These workers are on strike because of the employers' refusal to renew an agreement that expired last June, although more than 500 employers have accepted the old contract.

The employers have gathered strikebreakers from every section of the country, wages have been cut, working conditions destroyed and other ideal anti-union conditions prevail. One member of the Bakers' union was murdered in broad daylight by the employers' gun men.

The employers have used the "poison propaganda" without limit against the strikers, who are charged with being responsible for high prices. The wages of the strikebreakers have been cut, but not bread prices.

The unionists show that the wholesalers are playing a double game—to smash the Bakers' union and establish a monopoly in the Chicago break market. If the wholesalers succeed, it is declared, that they will make the beef trust look like a charitable institution.

Nearly all the firms involved control an extensive shipping trade in the various states, while firms like the Gordon baking company, Ward baking company, Schulze baking company, Gremman cake corporation and Atlantic & Pacific tea company have plants and business connections in all parts of the country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

WOULD FINE CUNARD LINE.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Secretary of Labor Davis has ordered fines to the limit of the statute assessed against the Cunard steamship line and has asked the state department to make diplomatic representation to the English government against what he officially classes as a "bold, and I believe, a knowing attempt on the part of the company to violate the immigration law either because of the paltry profits to be gained thereby, or to discredit our immigration policy."

The especial grievance against the company is its transportation of 300 Hungarian immigrants to this city, notwithstanding that on Dec. 1 the government notified all steamship companies that the quota of immigrants from Hungary legally entitled to enter the United States up to July, 1922, was exhausted.

ANTI-ALIEN LAW UPHELD.

San Francisco, Dec. 24.—The constitutionality of the California anti-alien land law, forbidding aliens ineligible to citizenship from owning or leasing agricultural land, has been upheld by the federal court of appeals. Other Pacific coast states have enacted laws similar to the California act.

MILLIONS ARE LOST IN FAKE CO-OP. PLAN

Chicago, Dec. 24.—The ease with which an ideal can be capitalized is shown in the collapse of the co-operative society of America, now in the hands of a reciever.

It is said that $26,000,000 was subscribed by thousands of persons, and that $11,000,000 was actually paid in. Of this vast sum, there is but $16 in the treasury the balance being a complete loss. This alleged co-operative society consisted of Harrison W. Parker, his wife and a relative. They organized the western securities corporation, which was the fiscal agent for the co-operative society. The report of the receiver shows that perjury has been committed and the finances juggled between the two organizations in a manner that would do credit to a Wall street financier.

Lurid literature was circulated by agents, who were paid large commissions on stock sold. The stockholders had no voice in the society's affairs.

Boni fide co-operators, who believe in the Rochdale system, continually warned the public that there was but one ending to the wild course of Parker and his alleged co-operators. They showed that there can be no co-operation where stockholders are denied a voice in management, and insisted that Parker's movement was but a high finance scheme labeled "co-operation" to catch the unthinking.

WANT GOVERNMENT AID.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Sugar men believe in "less government in business," but they favor government aid for their business, and are now in this city to induce congress to come to their relief.

These gentlemen hold a large amount of Cuban sugar and they want congress to authorize a sugar export association similar to that which financed the copper surplus.

The Federal sugar refining company, however, is not enthusiastic about the plan, and says that the sugar situation can not be aided by political action at Cuba or Washington.

In referring to conditions in Cuba, the company says:

"The very low wages for labor have encouraged operations, and the impoverished conditions of the workers in the interior makes it desirable to start work rather than penalize it."

DEFEND COMPANY STORES.

Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 24.—Today's reactionary trend is indicated by the publicity bureau of the Logan county mine owners, which actually defends the company store and the scrip system.

The public is told that the company store is for the benefit of the miners and protects them from "profiteering by independent merchants." The scrip system, it is stated, "is accepted by the miners as a great convenience."

Packers Formed Company "Unions" To Assist Wage Reduction Scheme

Omaha, Dec. 24.—The charge that meat packers organized company "unions" to assist them in their wage reduction scheme is sustained by Henry R. Hartnett, Charles Crely, S. F. Wells and T. F. Dunning, former employes of the Cudahy packing plant in this city, and representatives of the Cudahy "union."

The four men state that they have not worked in the plant since the strike was called.

> "We further state that there has been no meeting of this board (company 'union') since the wage decision was made. IN THIS CONNECTION WILL SAY THAT THE CUT WAS ACCEPTED BECAUSE WE WERE FORCED TO DO SO AND BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PLACED INTO EFFECT BY THE COMPANY WHETHER WE AGREED TO IT OR NOT."
>
> "We will further state that to the best of our knowledge and belief that there is no conference board (company 'union') at this time nor since the strike."

The above public statement shows how much democracy is in the "union" established by the meat barons whose clear purpose was to force their "union" to accept wage cuts and then point to this "voluntary" action when exploited workers quit.

The company "union" at the Armour plant in this city is also on the rocks, as the officers have joined the strikers.

STATE LAW BASED ON CLAYTON ACT HELD VOID BY U. S. SUPREME COURT

Washington, Dec. 24.—In a 5-to-4 decision, handed down by Chief Justice Taft, the United States supreme court has set aside an Arizona statute which prohibits the issuance of injunctions in labor disputes "unless necessary to prevent irreparable injury to property or a property right." Justices Brandeis, Pitney, Clarke and Holmes dissented.

The Arizona law is similar to section 20 of the Clayton act, passed by congress in 1914. Chief Justice Taft explained that the court's decision does not invalidate the Clayton law because "the equality clause of the fourteenth amendment (federal constitution) does not apply to congressional, but only to state, action."

The case came before the court as a result of a boycott against a Bisbee (Ariz.) restaurant, owned by William Truax, who refused to grant an eight-hour day to employes. He was denied an injunction in the Arizona courts, which held that the law of that state prohibits these writs when property is not injured, and that patronage is not property.

"No man has a vested right in the esteem of the public," said the Arizona supreme court. "While the plaintiff (Truax) had a clear right to refuse the demand of the union, the union had a right to advertise the cause of the strike."

In reversing this decision, Chief Justice Taft held that patronage is a property right and must be protected by the fourteenth amendment.

The court took the same position in this boycott case as in the Granite City picketing case—that there must be no importuning by workers to win public sentiment.

The court expressed displeasure at boycott methods that stir the public's emotions by a recital of the workers' wrongs, even though the methods were not criminal, but resulted in a successful boycott.

The chief justice suggested that the workers should make "a simple statement of the fact of the strike and a request to withhold patronage."

The chief justice failed to state how he reconciled his two positions: First, patronage is property and can be protected against a boycott by an injunction. Second, workers have the right to take this alleged "property" from an owner (?) if they use dancing master methods.

It is clear that the chief justice looks upon his first position as a principle and his second position as merely a method to soften his blow against the boycott. Or, in other words, workers may boycott, but if the boycott is successful they can be stopped by an injunction judge.

The decision would seem to mean that a state can not pass anti-injunction legislation along lines of the Clayton act.

Federal judges are beyond the reach of the people and they ignore the labor sections of the Clayton act, so the supreme court states that these labor sections are valid.

State judges are responsible to the people, and it is risky for them to ignore state legislation based on the Clayton act, so the supreme court outlaws such legislation.

In both cases the injunction judge has a free hand.

WESTERN CIVILIZERS ARE COSTLY TO CHINA

Washington, Dec. 24.—The European and American professors who are teaching western civilization to China are charging a high price, said Dr. Yun-Siang Tsao, of Peking, in an address before the people's forum in this city.

The speaker is councilor to the Chinese minister of foreign affairs, is assistant secretary-general of the Chinese delegation to the arms conference, and is a graduate of two American universities.

Dr. Tsao's speech bristled with quiet but cutting sarcasm on western civilization. He told of the billions of dollars paid to John Bull, "professor of moral virtue," of the amounts paid to Uncle Sam, "professor of the railroad sciences," and like amounts paid to expounders of western civilization from France, Russia and Germany. The two latter, he said, are not educating the Chinese since the war, as Japan has taken their place. Italy, he said, tried to secure a position as professor, but was told by the other professors that its system of education is not proficient.

Dr. Tsao said that in northeast China there is coal enough to supply the world for 1,000 years. All of the professors are aware of this wealth, he said.

ROADS EVADE LAW BY "FARMING OUT"

Chicago, Dec. 24.—On complaint of organized shop men, the railroad labor board is investigating railroads that assign their repair work to private contractors.

The shop men claim that this is a defiance of the Cummins-Esch law, as the contractors are outside the jurisdiction of the railroad board. The Erie, New York Central, Pittsburgh & Lake Erie, Great Northern and other roads will be probed.

Under the new scheme the contractor cuts wages, lengthen hours and destroy working conditions.

If the scheme is upheld it will mean a raid on the people's money though an army of irresponsible private contractors who are, in many cases, working through corporations in which railroad officials are interested.

BANKS BOOST SALARIES; HOWL "WAGE DEFLATION"

Washington, Dec. 24.—Federal reserve banks continually urge "wage deflation," but these banks have raised salaries of their officials more than $7,000,000 in the past two years.

In a speech in the senate Mr. Overman stated that the federal reserve bank of New York has spent $17,000,000 in the erection of the finest bank building in the world. The architect and engineer was paid $1,000,000 and $800,000 was appropriated for furniture.

"Let me call particular attention to some of the salaries paid in New York banks," said Senator Overman. "Six receive more than $20,000; 20 receive over $10,000. They have taken men from the various banks in New York, where they were getting three or four thousand dollars a year, and have quadrupled and quintupled their salaries. They have increased salaries in New York $1,168,984 since 1919. In Chicago the salaries have been increased $1,408,000; in San Francisco, $945,861, and in Kansas City, $595,495."

Senator Overman said the reserve system was originally intended to be operated on a non-profit basis, but the law has been amended so they can retain 100 per cent surplus. Since then, he said, profits have been so large that they do not know what to do with them, so they "are wasting it by increasing salaries over $7,000,000 since 1919 and by erecting these extravagant buildings."

LAWS AGAINST WOMEN.

Washington, Dec. 24.—In urging the enactment of an "equal rights" amendment to the federal constitution, the national woman's party announces that a survey of but a few states "reveals many barbaric laws."

The first report covers Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, where a husband owns his wife's services and the authority of the husband as the head of the family is absolute, whether he supports the family or not. The father controls the children, can put them to work whenever he pleases, controls their education and every detail of their upbringing, and alone enjoys their earnings.

Trade union women and women in several civic and social organizations are in sympathy with the movement to rectify these wrongs, but oppose the method. They show that the proposed "equal rights" amendment would prohibit any legislation that does not apply to both sexes. This, it is declared, will set aside every piece of legislation that applies to women wage earners.

Opposition to the "equal rights" amendment is intensified because some members of the national woman's party have announced their opposition to these beneficial labor laws.

DEFENDS FARM BLOC.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Disagreement with the president's opposition to [illegible] agricultural bloc in congress [illegible] recorded by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, in a speech in this city.

Reciting instances of the farm bloc's influence in the senate and house, Mr. Wallace expressed surprise "that any one should be disposed to regard such legislation as class legislation."

The speech is also in opposition to sentiments on the same subject expressed by Secretary of War Weeks.

FOOD PRICES STAND.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The United States bureau of labor statistics reports that there was a decrease of 1 per cent in food prices in November, as compared with October.

The price the farmer receives, according to Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, is the lowest since the beginning of the war.

Despite the fact that food prices are at a standstill, demands for "wage deflation" are being made by cheap-wage employers.

COLORADO STRIKE RECALLS LUDLOW

Denver, Dec. 24.—Reaction's policy in the strike of miners employed by the Colorado Fuel and Iron company is identical with the methods employed during the 1914 strike against the same company, when women and children were massacred at Ludlow camp by state gun men.

The state troops were then in command of Pat Hamrock, and he is again in command; martial law has been proclaimed; public meetings have been prohibited and press censorship orders have been issued, as in 1914.

The company is a Rockefeller unit. It was the first to establish a company "union," shortly after Ludlow. Recently it enforced drastic wage reductions. Mine foremen and superintendents circulated petitions among the men to accept the lower wages and those who refused to sign were discharged. In every camp where the workers are organized in trade unions the reduction was unanimously rejected.

The state industrial commission has ordered district attorneys to start criminal proceedings against the miners because they struck, but the district attorneys have assumed a "let-George-do-it" attitude toward the commission.

Economic Causes Are Behind Wars

Cincinnati, Dec. 24.—Wars will not end until their economic causes are removed, says John P. Frey, editor International Molders' Journal.

"What the white race must do is to discover the means of preventing wars," says this labor editor. "This is the problem which our civilization must solve if it is to continue to develop to the advantage of the human race.

"Modern wars are not fought to gratify the ambition of some individual; their causes are economic and commercial. One nation, because it has the power, imposes its will and wish upon another so that a subject people can be exploited.

"The international morality has been on a different basis than that between individuals. International justice has had a different meaning than national justice. The stronger have oppressed the weak and created bitterness and hatreds which rankle in men's breasts.

"The international conference for limitation of armament will have lifted a crushing burden from the nations of the earth if armaments are materially reduced, but it will not have done anything to prevent future wars, unless the causes for these wars are removed. This is the great problem—the one which we, as trade unionists, are vitally interested in."

MILK STRIKE NOT OVER.

New York, Dec. 24.—Milk distributors in this city insist that the strike of several thousand teamsters "is over," but they are asking for an injunction to compel strikers to return their route books. These books contain the lists of customers which the drivers secured, as do other salesmen. The deposit of $150 is still held by the companies, and the strikers say the injunction is an attempt to secure court sanction to confiscate this money.

WOULD EXPLOIT MINORS.

Madison, Wis., Dec. 24.—The state industrial commission has refused the request of Wisconsin lumber barons that the minimum wage of 22 cents an hour for minors be reduced. The employers claim that this rate is often higher than wages paid workers who are over 21 years of age. The wage in the lumber camps for adult labor now ranges from $20 to $30 a month.

OPPOSE LOWER RATES.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Railroad managers postponed their low-wage campaign long enough to come to this city and assure the interstate commerce commission that lower freight rates is impossible and that their [illegible] receiving a small return on their investment.

"PROBE PORTO RICO," IS WORKERS' DEMAND

Washington, Dec. 24.—The deplorable condition of Porto Rican workers is a menace to the stability of that island, and is being used by monarchists there who favor secession, said Santiago Iglesias, member of the Porto Rican senate and president of the Porto Rican branch of the A. F. of L.

In urging upon congress the creation of a federal commission, armed with broad powers, the trade unionist said:

"Coffee plantation workers are paid 35 cents a day; sugar plantation workers, 65 cents a day; tobacco plantation workers, 45 cents, and fruit plantation workers, 60 cents. These figures are for men workers. Women workers are paid much less. The industrial workers—cigar makers, building trades, longshoremen, railroad workers, etc.—have suffered a wage reduction of from [illegible] to 40 per cent.

"The normal diet of the agricultural laborer is: for breakfast, a cocoanut dipper of black coffee without sugar; at noon, a lunch of boiled codfish and oil and one of the following vegetables: banana, potato or yautia. At 3 o'clock, another dipper of coffee. Supper, a stew made of the current vegetables of the island and rice and codfish. At intervals he treats himself to pork, and on rare occasions he goes to town and eats enormous quantities of bread.

"Under such conditions is it strange that the Porto Rican laborer is anemic from scanty and improper food?

"'A large proportion of the rural population in Porto Rico,' says one official report, 'suffers from this disease (anaemia), which attacks the red corpuscles of the blood and renders breathing difficult and continued and severe labor almost impossible.'

"All of which is a polite official way of saying that wages are so low that men are alternately poisoned by bad food and starved. When army authorities tried feeding three decent meals a day to the Porto Ricans employed on construction work they found an increase of over 100 per cent in efficiency. This is a sad commentary upon the customary diet of Porto Rican laborers."

RECREATION IS NEEDED.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Outdoor recreation ranks today as one of the major resources or utilities of the national forests, according to the annual report of the forest service.

"The presence of large numbers of people on favored recreation areas," says Forester Greeley, "creates problems of sanitation, or public health and of protection to property which can not safely be ignored.

"Counties, municipalities and in some cases individual citizens are doing much by generous donations and constructive planning to relieve the situation. Several municipal camps are examples of the high public service which camp ground improvements promote. After the fullest co-operation has been secured, however, there will remain many important recreation areas where action by the government will be necessary to preserve public health and property."

700 CLOAK FIRMS SETTLE.

New York, Dec. 24.—More than 700 firms, employing 17,000 members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, have re-established working conditions that the manufacturers rejected last November. The contract between the two parties does not expire until June, 1922, and the union is demanding that this pledge be observed.

BAR HORSE HAIR BRUSHES.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 24.—Because it has been found that the deadly anthrax may be contracted through the use of shaving brushes made from horse hair, the state department of health has prohibited the manufacture or sale of such brushes in this state.